(d) Incentives/facilities given to soldiers posted at high altitude in Kashmir and China borders include monetary concessions like Siaehen allowance, High Altitude (uncongenial climate) area allowance and non-monetary concessions such as speedy rotation of troops, special extrems cold clothing items, appropriate shelter, modern communication systems and high caloric diet.

पश्चिमी भारत में नौसैनिक अड्डा स्थापित करने प्रस्ताव

(क) क्या सरकार ने पश्चिमी भारत के किसी स्थान पर "सी बर्ड नौसैनिक अड्डा" स्थापित करने के किसी प्रस्ताव पर गंभीरता से विचार किया हैं,

(ख) क्या महाराष्ट्र और गुजरात को राज्य सरकारों द्वारा सरकार को कोई व्यापक प्रस्ताव प्रेषित किये गये हैं,

(ग) यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया हैं तथा किस स्थान पर ऐसा अड्डा बनाया जायेगा, और

(घ) क्या सरकार ने पश्चिमी भारत के विशाल समुद्री तट को ध्यान में रखते हुए उक्त प्रस्ताव को स्वीकार कर लिया हैं और यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं ?

रक्षा मंत्री (श्री जॉर्ज फर्नान्डीज) : (क) से (घ) सरकार ने भारत के पश्चिमी तट पर कर्नाटक राज्य के कारोबार क्षेत्र में एक नौसैना जैसे "सी बर्ड" स्थापित करने के प्रस्ताव को अनुमोदित कर दिया हैं और यह स्थापित किए जाने की प्रक्रिया में हैं ।

Allotment of arms etc. to the cadets

1110. SARDAR GURCHARAN SINGH TOHRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the criteria for the allotment of Arms, Services, Regiments and Units to the Gentleman Cadets of various Officers Training Establishments since early days of Independence (or in the British Indian Army) have been competence and merit,

(b) if so, whether there has been a devisation from this criteria effected through specific dircctions/instructions of Army Headquarters laying down guidelines or restrictions relating to one particular religion or a few particular communities; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) The criteria for the allotment of Arms/Services, Regiment/Unit to the Gentlemen Cadets has always been performance and competence. Cadets high in merit (varying from 2% to 10% of the top) have always been given their first choice.

The cadets under the present system arc allocated to Arms/Services/Regimcnt/Battalion based on the principle of equitable distribution of calibre, age profile, qualifications and class composition. Cadets in the first 2.5% of the order of Merit get their first choice. There is no separate yardstick for allocation of Arms/ Services to Cadets of any particular community/class. Due to this a cadet from a particular community/class can be commissioned to the Regiment of another community/class. An equitable distribution with an eye on "National Integration" is also kept in view. This policy strictly follows the principle of equality of opportunity to candidates of all classes.

Preference to small scale units in the CSD

1111. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any effort has been made to give assistance and preference to small scale units in the Canteen Stores Department (CSD);

(b) if so, what preference is shown to goods and products originating from the small scale sector;

(c) whether any financial incentives are given to goods from the small scale sector; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Canteen Stores Department purchases items for sale to the troops and

other entitled categories. In such purchases, no preference is given to any firm, whether large or small-multinational or otherwise. Only products considered readily saleable, based on the clientele preferences are procured. No specific guidelines have been issued to provide special concessions to small scale sector in purchases to be made by CSD. Nevertheless instructions have been issued along with other constituents of the Defence set-up, to induct/promote use of certain selected products manufatured in the Handloom/Handicraft/Cohage segments of the small scale sector.

(c) and (d) No financial incentives are given to goods from the small scale sector.

Defence co-operation with Russia

1112. SHRI V.P. DURAISAMY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government arc contemplating purchase of defence hardware and service from Russia to the tune of fifteen million dollars under a new ten years' defence co-opca-tion programme with that country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Infiltration of ISI in the Army

1113. PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV: SHRI ISH DUTT YADAV:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "ISI men plan to join Army" which appeared in the Indian Express, dated 25th August, 1998;

(b) whether Government have assessed the gravity of the ISI activities in the country as well as its infiltration in the Army;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps Government have taken so far or propose to take to curb the ISI infiltration in the Army?

THE 'MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) In view of Pakistan ISI's support to militant activities in India, the possibility of their attempts to infiltrate agents in the armed forces cannot be ruled out. However, no such incident has come to the notice of the Government so far. Appropriate and elaborate measures exist to detect and neutralise enemy infiltration into the armed forces.

Shelling by Pakistani troops

1114. SHRI AKHILESH DAS: SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "Life in the shadow of Death" published in the Tribune, dated 10th September, 1998 to the effect that since June 27, 1998, shelling by Pakistani troops on the national highway from Srinagar to Kargil enroute Leh has been too frequent, intense and treacherous so as to cut the supplies to Ladakh region;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken to ensure proper security for transport and traffic moving along the highway; and

(c) whether the matter has been taken up with Pak-authorities to prevent such shelling of traffic on the highway?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Army has been providing safety to vehicular traffic and supply convoy on this highway by regulating the movement of such traffic. This method has been very successful and the winter stocking in